

REMARKS

It is noted with appreciation that claims 118 and 122 have been allowed. By this amendment claims 91, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117 and 121 have been cancelled without prejudice; claims 86-88, 98, 103, 111, 112, 119, 120, and 123 - 147 have been amended; and new claims 148 -152 have been added. All claims pending after entry of this amendment are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The comprehensive and thorough analysis presented by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action are greatly appreciated and have been most helpful in addressing the issues raised in the Office Action. As a result, it is believed the amendments proposed herein will advance the application to allowance.

To advance prosecution of this application to allowance, and without conceding the premises relied on in the Office Action for the rejection of claims under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103, the claims now pending in this application either have been allowed (claims 118 and 122), are based on claims indicated as containing allowable subject matter, or on claims that have been amended to avoid rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In summary, claims 98, 111, 112, 119, 120 and 134 have been amended to address the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and the dependencies of claims 123 - 147 have been revised so that those claims now only depend on claims that are believed to be allowable. New claims 148 and 149 contain the subject matter excised from claim 98.

Claims 86, 87 and 88 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 91, indicated to be allowable.

New claims 150, 151 and 152 incorporate the subject matter of claim 95, indicated to be allowable, into the subject matter of claims 86, 87 and 88 (prior to amendment herein) respectively.

Claims 111, 112, 119 and 120 have been amended to avoid the grounds of rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The references noted in the Office Action but not relied on by the Examiner have been noted. Additional references are cited on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

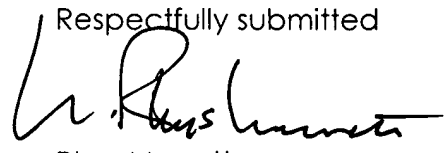
It is believed all outstanding grounds of objection and rejection in the Office Action have been satisfied and that all of the now pending claims are allowable. Early notice to that effect is solicited. If after considering this response, the Examiner has any outstanding questions, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

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PATENT

Date: August 16, 1999
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Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhys Merrett', written over the printed name.

Rhys Merrett
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